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NEWS RELEASE

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KILA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RECEIVES FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

MISSOULA —

A **Kila** undergraduate student in the Division of Biological Sciences at The University of Montana has received funding for her summer research project.

Junior Marcela Majda earned funding through the Integrated Biological Science Courses Organized Around Research project (Project IBS-CORE), which is intended to involve more undergraduate students in biological research.

Majda is one of 18 UM students who will receive a monthly stipend of \$750 for three months, plus a budget of up to \$1,000 for research materials and travel. A committee of biology faculty members reviewed and ranked all student research proposals when deciding which students would be named 2000 IBS-CORE Undergraduate Research Fellows.

Majda's project is titled "Effects of Monovalent and Divalent Cations on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (Type 2) Dimerization." HIV is a retrovirus, meaning it contains a diploid genome formed by two single stranded RNA molecules. These two RNA molecules physically link to form a dimer during assembly of the virus. Majda will study the dimerization process and try to determine the sites of dimerization on the HIV virus.

Project IBS-CORE is funded by a \$1.4 million grant awarded to UM by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a nonprofit medical research organization. This is the second year the project has funded undergraduate research fellows.

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